

DHHS's Objective is to Bring Spending on Health and Human Services in-Line with Available Resources

THE GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY WILL BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL MAINE CITIZENS

- The State is facing a significant budget shortfall as a result of the struggling national economy, the growing cost of healthcare, the loss of federal funds, and spending that exceeds available resources.
- The Governor's economic strategy will balance the budget by:
 - raising incomes and providing opportunity;
 - rewarding work;
 - inspiring people toward independence and self-reliance;
 - slowing down the costs of health care; and
 - controlling spending.
- Improved economic opportunity will create good-paying jobs with benefits as one way to prevent child abuse, substance abuse, domestic violence, and depression.
- Making Maine more attractive for business investment will contribute to growth in personal income and General Fund revenues that will support services for the most vulnerable of Maine's citizens.

WE WILL MAKE A CAREFUL AND THOROUGH ASSESSMENT ABOUT THE SERVICES MOST IMPORTANT TO MAINE PEOPLE

- We will examine each and every program funded and administered by HHS.
- We will organize those programs around the same principles on which HHS was created – health, economic independence and personal development.
- We will give priority to services that reduce the risk of serious injury or death to vulnerable Maine people.
- We will not make across-the-board or arbitrary cuts.
- This is a new approach to HHS budget decision making.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS WHICH WILL AFFECT MAINE PEOPLE.

- There can be no growth in the HHS budget for the next two years.
- Health care costs, for both clients and employees, continue to rise.
- Each year, these costs consume an increasingly higher share of the budget.

- There is no easy way out of this.
- We have to make the hard choices now.

WE WILL COORDINATE SERVICE DELIVERY TO REDUCE DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND IMPROVE ACCESS

- These are the same goals that we have set for ourselves in the formation of the new Department.
- The changes will result in more cost effective delivery of services.
- We are also maintaining our commitments under several consent decrees.

IN EVALUATING SERVICES, ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IS CRITICAL

- This budget is consistent with the Administration's goal to provide access to quality health care for all Maine people.
- Restructuring in MaineCare covered services will allow MaineCare to maintain essential services for all eligible individuals and families.
- Reduced health care costs will stimulate economic development and improve access to quality health care

for those Maine people most in need

WE WILL MEET OUR BUDGET CHALLENGES COLLABORATIVELY

- The Department will work with our service providers in meeting the budget challenges with professionalism and collegiality.
- Even though we have been discussing ways and means of putting an appropriate budget together, we want to emphasize that:
 - No final decisions have been made so that the groups' input may be, and will be, considered and included in further discussion
 - The final approach or final set of recommendations for the budget has not yet been approved.
 - The Governor endorses our plan to meet with providers, advocates, & consumers and welcomes the input we will receive.
 - Groups may not see their suggestions in the initial budget in January due to the timeline. However, DHHS would recommend, for the budget bill change package, any agreed upon proposals.